3-2019

University Honors Program Newsletters

Honors College, Georgia Southern University

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Recommended Citation
Honors College, Georgia Southern University, "University Honors Program Newsletters" (2019). Honors College Newsletters. 48.
https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/honors-newsletters/48

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Soon-to-graduate Honors student Mary Kate Moore (experimental psychology ’19) will be able to add one more entry to her curriculum vita this June: a publication as lead author of the article, “George Berkeley Through History: Multimodal Perception from the 1700s to Present.” The article is coming out in the *North American Journal of Psychology*.

What began as a two-page topical paper for her History and Systems of Psychology class in 2017 turned into a 17-page publication on multimodal perception, or the idea that all our senses – visual, auditory, sensory and more – work together to create one’s perception of reality. The original assignment was to select a figure in history – in Moore’s case, George Berkeley – and connect their ideas to modern research.

Click [here](#) to read more!
the development of a critical sense of inquiry, a spirit of creativity, a global perspective and an ethic of civic responsibility. With your investment, the University Honors Program will continue to enrich the lives of students at Georgia Southern University.

Honors Research: Trawling the Stories of Georgia’s Fishers

While eating your shrimp basket with fries, do you ever stop and wonder how that seafood arrived on your plate? Perhaps it was caught locally. Or maybe it was imported from another part of the world. Or even raised in a fish farm. Julia Thomas (anthropology ’19) has spent the past three semesters researching and interviewing fishers, particularly shrimpers and crabbers, in southeast Georgia who supply seafood across American and Asian markets. Her research focuses on the fisher’s relationship to larger commercialized fishing corporations.

“Stricter government regulations, increasing fuel and operation costs, and competition from imported seafood are negatively affecting coastal Georgia’s commercial fishing industry. Fishers’ local ecological knowledge is extensive and gives them unique perspectives into the problems the industry is facing,” she said. “Their perspectives differ from those of biologists or policymakers, making them useful for implementing good management practices that not only consider the scientific knowledge of a fishery, but the human aspect as well. My thesis discusses the findings from mixed-methods research conducted with Georgia fishers about the problems they face and their unique insights into potential solutions.”

Click here to read more!
Honors in Action with Camp Blue Skies

In what has become a spring break tradition, Camp Blue Skies comes to Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, Georgia—a camp especially designed to support campers who face medical, adaptive, and other life challenges. Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Brent Wolfe led a group of 16 students to volunteer as cabin counselors and activity leaders for participants in Camp Blue Skies, a camp for adults with developmental disabilities. Our students go through some intensive pre-camp training, including training on-site a couple weeks before camp.

This year’s group featured a mix of new volunteers and seasoned returners, including Delaney Grimm (recreation ’20), who used this year's camp to conduct research for her honors thesis. Her thesis will be the third honors thesis connected to research about the camp.

Click here to read more!

Keeping Tybee Island Beach Clean

Honors Alumni are encouraged to update their information here!
Honors Program students from both the Armstrong and Statesboro campuses once again joined forces to improve the beaches of Tybee Island. This effort on March 2, was the fourth in a series of Honors Program beach clean-ups hosted by Tybee Clean Beach Volunteers, a non-profit organization dedicated to the upkeep of the beach and surrounding area.

Over 20 students from both campuses were in attendance along with a number of experienced volunteers. Volunteers combed the area finding and removing all manner of trash from the premises. Items found ranged from cans, bottles, and cigarette butts to oddities such as cantaloupes and full bottles of vanilla extract. Regardless of the absurdity of the items, all found were collected and cataloged by those in attendance, leaving the beach in far better shape than before their arrival.

The beach clean-up is just one of the ways Honors Program students on both campuses have come together, and it is quickly being established as a lasting tradition.

Project Pura Vida!
Project Pura Vida! Honors in Costa Rica celebrated its 5th anniversary this past spring break.

Dra. Leticia McGrath accompanied nine honors students to Costa Rica, where they worked with the Costa Rican Humanitarian Foundation in La Carpio, just outside of San Jose. The participants on the trip were Bodie Fox, Moriah Harris, Jessica Kolman, Kelly Lesh, Tabitha Lowe, Mathew McGrath, Jaymin Patel, Caitlin Shelby, and Jacey Thomas. Look for a story celebrating five years of this trip in the next newsletter!
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